

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the last paragraph on page 5 of the specification to read as follows:

- - The disclosed system also allows the parties to propose a rating in confidence (a new method of multivariate (multi-issue) blind bidding now [not] described in US Patent Application No. 10/022,797). In this case, the "hidden" reflected ratings are not shown to the other party until it is possible to generate a solution that simultaneously satisfies both parties. A scenario using hidden **Reflections** is shown in Figure 2. - -